422 Rec'd BCT/PTO 2 0 MAR, 2000 0 9 / 5 0 9 0 7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: Pietras et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: An apparatus For Facilitating The

Connection of Tubulars Using A

Top Drive

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

6/2

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on 2 MCC 2000, with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL541342652US, in an envelope addressed to: BOX PCT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents,, Washington, D.C.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 25.

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 3, line 1, please delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, please delete "2 or 3".

Claim 5, line 1, please delete "2, 3 or 4".

Claim 7, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim", and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim", and insert --claim 1--.